

Abstract

The present invention concerns a fusion protein comprising a recombinase protein, preferably the site-specific DNA recombinase C31-Int of phage Φ C31, and a peptide sequence which directs the nuclear uptake of the fusion protein in eucaryotic cells, and the use of this fusion protein to recombine, invert or delete DNA molecules containing recognition sequences for said recombinase in eucaryotic cells at high efficiency. In addition the invention relates to a cell, preferably a mammalian cell which contains recognition sequences for said recombinase in its genome and wherein the genome is recombined by the action of said fusion protein. Moreover, the invention relates to the use of said cell to study the function of genes and for the creation of transgenic organisms to study gene function at various developmental stages, including the adult. In conclusion, the present invention provides a process which enables the highly efficient modification of the genome of mammalian cells by site-specific recombination.